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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

A1091

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ACTION ARA-15

5170

BUENOS 02652 01 OF 02 272007Z

INFO OCT-01 10-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
 NSCE-00 SSD-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 SAS-02 OMB-01
 TRSE-00 HA-05 SR-04 OCT-02 SY-05 SYE-09 DOE-17
 DODE-00 EB-00 AID-07 MCE-00 EUR-12 SMS-01 OES-09
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O R 271909Z MAR 80
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4819
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 USMISSION GENEVA
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 USCINCSO GUARRY HTS

SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2652

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/27/86 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) CR-P.
 TAGS: PEPR SHUM MASS PINT PARM UNHCR US AR
 SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINE
 GOVERNMENT: FIRST DAY'S TALK AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (MARCH 24)

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S FIRST ROUND OF TALKS AT
 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
 PASTOR LEADING THE ARGENTINE SIDE--COVERED HUMAN RIGHTS
 (INCLUDING SECURITY OF THE PERSON AND ARGENTINE PROGRESS
 TOWARD DEMOCRACY), NUCLEAR ISSUES, PROSPECTS FOR US-
 ARGENTINE MILITARY RELATIONS AND SOVIET-ARGENTINE RELA-
 TIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. SETTING THE THEME OF HIS VISIT, AMBASSADOR SMITH STATED
 THAT CONTINUING THE WORK OF THE GOODPASTER MISSION HE
 WISHED TO DO HIS BEST TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. IN HIS MANY
 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE HE HAD NOT SEEN A MORE
 SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, ONE IN WHICH THE US
 AND ARGENTINA SHARE IMPORTANT COMMON INTERESTS.
 FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR STATED HE FULLY AGREED. PRESI-
 DENT VIDELA HAD ASSURED GENERAL GOODPASTER THAT ARGENTINA
 WAS A COUNTRY SOLIDLY IN THE WEST.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. SMITH ASKED ABOUT THE OUTLOOK.
 PASTOR SAID THERE WOULD BE FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. DIS-
 APPEARANCES WERE DEFINITELY OVER. PRISONERS HELD IN
 EXECUTIVE DETENTION CONTINUE TO BE RELEASED OR PROCESSED
 AND THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR
 THE APPROXIMATELY 1000 PEN PRISONERS HELD NOW BY THE
 GOVERNMENT WILL BE REDUCED BY HALF. ON RIGHT OF OPTION,
 HOWEVER, PASTOR WAS RETICENT: THE PROGRAM IS MOVING
 SLOWLY, HE ADMITTED, MOSTLY FROM FEAR THAT --AS HAS
 HAPPENED SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY, HE SAID--OPTIONED PRISONERS
 MIGHT RETURN TO ARGENTINA AND PLAN NEW TERRORIST ACTS.

5. AMBASSADOR SMITH ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT SEVERAL
 YOUNG PERSONS ABDUCTED IN AUGUST AND SUBSEQUENTLY
 ALLOWED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FAMILIES HAD AGAIN
 FALLEN SILENT. PASTOR CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF
 THE AFFAIR, LEADING TO A SIDE DISCUSSION OF WAYS IN
 WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS OF THE EMBASSY ARE PROCESSED
 AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. SMITH SAID THE PROGRESS GOA HAD MADE WAS WELL RE-
 COGNIZED. WE WERE STILL CONCERNED OVER THE SLOWNESS OF
 THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY CASES WHERE US

CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY HAD BEEN ISSUED. IF WE DE-
 SIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, WE NEED TO SEE MORE "BLUE
 SKY" IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS.

7. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING AT
 GENEVA. GOA--OR AT LEAST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY--IS STILL
 IN HIGH DUDGEOON OVER ACTIVITIES OF THE US DELEGATION TO
 THE COMMISSION, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF USREP SHESTACK.
 FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR SAID THAT EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNING
 (MARCH 23) TWO BOMBS HAD GONE OFF AT ARGENTINA'S GENEVA
 DELEGATION HEADQUARTERS--PROOF THAT TERRORISTS STILL
 ARE ACTIVE AGAINST GOA, HOWEVER UNWILLING OTHER GOVERN-
 MENTS MIGHT BE TO CREDIT THEIR EXISTENCE. PASTOR WAS
 MOST PARTICULARLY IRRITATED THAT THE USDEL AT GENEVA
 HAD LOBBIED AGAINST A 12B RESOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN
 LABORED OVER AND AGREED "BY ALL THE OTHER DELEGATIONS,"
 SAID PASTOR. THE US SIDE EVEN ASKED FOR A DELAY IN
 VOTING IN ORDER TO GAIN TIME FOR LOBBYING. IN A FINAL
 SESSION, PASTOR CHARGED, USREP SHESTACK SAID TO THE
 CUBAN DELEGATE--BUT LOUDLY ENOUGH THAT OTHERS HEARD--
 SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT "PEOPLE TRAINED IN CUBA
 HAVE BEEN TORTURED IN ARGENTINE PRISONS."

8. WE REPLIED THAT UNDERSTANDINGS GAINED AT THE TIME
 OF THE GOODPASTER VISIT HAD BEEN HONORED, AND THAT
 ARGENTINA'S FOLLOWING SOVIET POSITIONS ON SEVERAL QUES-
 TIONS--THE SAKHAROV MATTER, FOR EXAMPLE--HAD LOOKED UN-
 SEEMLY TO US.

9. PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY. PASTOR REPLIED TO
 AMBASSADOR SMITH'S INQUIRY ABOUT THE PACE OF RETURN TO
 DEMOCRACY WITH A LITANY OF HORRORS COMMITTED BY ARGEN-
 TINA'S LAST ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND OPTIMISTIC WORDS ABOUT THE
 CURRENT SITUATION. THE COUNTRY WOULD, HE
 ASSURED, CONTINUE TO MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY--BUT THIS TIME
 IT WOULD BE ONE THAT WOULD BE STABLE AND EFFECTIVE.
 EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO REFORM ARGENTINA'S FRAGMENTED
 PARTY STRUCTURE. THE MEANS OF DOING THIS WOULD BE THE
 DIALOGUE DUE TO BEGIN IN JUST TWO DAYS, ON MARCH 26.
 THE POLITICAL BASES DEVISED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PUB-
 LISHED LAST DECEMBER, AS ELABORATED IN TWO VIDELA
 SPEECHES, FORM THE TRACK ALONG WHICH THE REFORMS ARE
 TO RUN.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

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Date Declassify on Reason

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BUENOS 02552 02 OF 02 272031Z

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10. NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. OUR EFFORTS WERE CONCENTRATED ON TRYING TO ELEVATE ARGENTINE'S MANAGEMENT--TO THE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF

COUNTERING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE. NOTING THAT ARGENTINA MAY WELL BECOME A SUPPLIER OF MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY IN TEN YEARS OR SO WE TRIED TO DIRECT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S THINKING TOWARD WORLD-WIDE CONTROL OF DANGEROUS MATERIALS. PASTOR COUNTERED WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT ARGENTINA WANTS ONLY TO PROVIDE THE NUCLEAR ENERGY THE COUNTRY NEEDS IN AREAS WHERE HYDRO ELECTRIC ENERGY IS INSUFFICIENT. HE INVITED US TO KEEP LOOKING AT THE COUNTRY'S ENERGY PLAN TO EASE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF ARGENTINA'S EFFORTS, AND ALSO TO CONSIDER THAT ARGENTINA'S "JUST-CONCLUDED NUCLEAR ACCORD" WITH BRAZIL REMOVES ANY IDEA THAT MIGHT EVER HAVE OCCURRED THAT NUCLEAR RIVALRY BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL MIGHT TEMPT TOWARD ARMS PRODUCTION.

11. NUCLEAR AFFAIRS: TLATELOLCO. PASTOR SAID IT WEIGHS ON HIM TO HAVE PRESIDENT VIDELA'S COMMITMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO RATIFY TLATELOLCO REMAIN UNFULFILLED. EFFORTS BY THE US WITH EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS TO BRAKE THE ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM HAD LED HOWEVER, HE SAID, TO A CLIMATE IN WHICH RATIFICATION WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. AMBASSADOR SMITH DESCRIBED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR CONCERN FOR PROPER SAFEGUARDS AND ANY IDEA OF SABOTAGING ARGENTINA'S PROGRAM. THE ISSUE HOWEVER, HE SAID, WAS THAT TLATELOLCO DESERVES RATIFICATION FOR ITS OWN MERITS--NOT AS SOMETHING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ARGENTINE-US RELATIONS.

12. MILITARY RELATIONS. PASTOR HELD UP THE HUMPHREY-KENNEDY AMENDMENT BARRING ARGENTINA'S BUYING US MILITARY EQUIPMENT AS "CAUSING SUSPICIONS" ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AS A SUPPLIER IN OTHER AREAS. PASTOR CLAIMED MANY ARGENTINES ASKED IN THE WAKE OF THE HODGES VISIT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN HERE IF THE US WERE TO "RETURN TO EARLIER POLICIES" AND LEAVE ARGENTINA WITHOUT SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT THAT THE ALLIS CHALMERS COMPANY MIGHT PROVIDE FOR HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS. SMITH REPLIED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE MORE IMPROVEMENT IN ARGENTINA'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO REPEALING HUMPHREY-KENNEDY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THERE IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE "LEGISLATED FOREIGN POLICY," AND THAT IN TIME MIGHT GIVE SOME FLEXIBILITY TO THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO ARGENTINA.

13. ARGENTINE-SOVIET RELATIONS. PASTOR DESCRIBED AN ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY "ROOTED IN THE WEST" BUT WITH GRANCES IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENTS AND TOWARD GOOD--IF CIRCUMSCRIBED--RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. ARGENTINA HOWEVER WILL NOT, SAID PASTOR, SEEK ANY "PERMANENT BALANCE" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST--THUS PLANS FOR A VIDELA TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN DROPPED, EVEN THOUGH SYMMETRY WOULD INDICATE (SINCE VIDELA WILL VISIT CHINA AND AT SOME POINT THE MIDDLEEAST, AND HAS ALREADY BEEN TO JAPAN) THAT HE INCLUDE MOSCOW IN THE KNOTTY PROBLEM OF THE MOMENT, PASTOR, SAID, IS NEGOTIATING A FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. ARGENTINA WOULD RATHER "SELL OUR FISH TO THE RUSSIANS THAN HAVE THEM STEAL IT," BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IS LOTH TO CONCEDE FISHING PORT RIGHTS.

14. OTHER TOPICS. PASTOR RAISED THE DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND THE NEED FOR BETTER DEFENSE PLANNING FOR THE AREA AMONG BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND THE US. OUR CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUP IN BOLIVIA ARE COVERED SEPTEL.

15. PRINCIPAL ARGENTINE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARCH 24 CONVERSATION WERE FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR, DEPUTY MINISTER CAVANOLLI, AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL AND JUAN CARLOS JIMENEZ MELO, RECENTLY APPOINTED INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL COORDINATION. ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADORS SMITH AND CASTRO TO THE MINISTRY WERE CLAUD RUCER (BRAVECA), ALLEN LOCKE AND EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR HALLMAN. THE MEETING BEGAN AT 1000 AND CONCLUDED AT 1225.

CASTRO

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